

**Abstinence Education Contractors
FY 2005**

Name of Project: **Arlington ISD, Pathways to Success**

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Population/service area	5 th -8 th graders in 40 campuses in the Arlington Independent School

Project Summary:

Pathways to Success is designed to provide abstinence education in grades 5-8 in the Arlington Independent School District. The objective is to provide students with the skills to make good decisions, to build self-esteem, to avoid risky behaviors, to withstand social and peer pressures, and to promote the abstinence – only message.

The Curriculum is a comprehensive six-session program using the Boys Town Education model already in place in AISD. The Pathways Team consists of three Pathways to Success Facilitators, along with the campus counselor, nurse, intervention specialist (drug/alcohol counselor) and teacher. Lessons have been chosen specifically for each campus after meeting with campus personnel. The lessons are designed to enable students to define abstinence and use abstinence in their everyday lives. Lessons include hands-on activities to encourage students to “practice” skills for maintaining abstinence from early sexual behavior, drug and alcohol use and/or abuse, violent behavior and other unhealthy behaviors.

Parents are invited to participate in Common Sense Parenting training. This training consists of six sessions enabling parents to gain the skills necessary to guide their children toward healthy decision-making. These sessions are limited so that parents get to know one another and feel comfortable discussing difficult situations. Parents learn to work with their children using skills such as effective praise, preventative teaching and corrective teaching.

Pathways to Success addresses all areas of a young persons life. The curriculum is easy to absorb and is enjoyable. Students hear the abstinence message from various adults in the district thus providing consistency. Parents receive information on what is being presented in the classroom and provided the opportunity to learn more on how to continue the message at home.
